GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2119
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2003
COAL RESERVES
DHANI RAM SHANDIL

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated quantum of coal reserves in the country, zone-wise;

(b) the quantum of coal mined annually in the country;

(c) the reasons for importing coal rather than exploiting the coal reserves;

(d) the details of locations at where the exploration of coal reserves is going on;

(e) whether there is any possibility of availability of more coal reserves in the country in addition to these locations; and

(f) if so, the action taken or being taken by the Government in this direction ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a): The State-wise reserves of coal in country as on 1.1.2003 as per Geological Survey of India (GSI) upto a depth of 1200metres from surface are as follows:

State	Coal Reserves in Million Tonnes			
	Proved	Indicated	Inferred	Total
Andhra Pradesh	7944	6122	2518	16584
Arunachal Pradesh	31	40	19	90
Assam	279	27	34	340
Bihar	0	0	160	160
Chhattisgarh	8561	25409	4165	38135
Jharkhand	35265	29552	6326	71143
Madhya Pradesh	7100	7888	3217	18205
Maharashtra	4509	2151	1534	8194
Meghalaya	117	41	301	459
Nagaland	4	1	15	20
Orissa	14302	29516	15286	59104
Utter Pradesh	766	296	0	1062
West Bengal	11207	11570	4475	27252
Total	90085	112613	38050	240748

(b): The annual coal production in the country during the last three years are as follows:

Years	Production (million tonnes)
2000-01	313.70
2001-02	327.64
2002-03	341.25

(c) : Since , import of coal is under Open General Licence(OGL), the consumer is free to import coal. Coaland coke are imported in the country by consumers to supplement the limited availability of low ash superior grade coking & non-coking coal for use by blending with indigenous coal and also on environmental considerations and considerations of location specific landed cost.

(d): The details of location of blocks/sectors/areas where exploration for coal is being carried out/ programmed in the current year (2003-04) by Geological Survey of India(GSI), MineralExploration Corporation Ltd.(MECL)and Central Mines Planning & Design Institute Ltd.(CMPDIL) are given at Annexure.

(e) & (f): Yes sir. There is possibility of having more coal resources. According to a recent exercise carried out jointly by GSI and CMPDIL there is a possibility of coal resources to the tune of 140 billion tonnes (tentative) in some selected coalfields in West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chattishgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Andhra PradeshBesides, there are other areas where more coal resources may be available. Exploration will be taken up in future in these States to establish the actual potentiality.